

Subject : Arms Procured by Arab High
Committee for Syria

Report Number : RLB-1434

Place
Acquired : Beirut, Lebanon

Date of
Information : Current

Evaluation: B-2

Date Acquired : 14-17 August 1949

Source : ☐ ☐

Date of Report: 22 August 1949

1. Xunus BAMIYA of Jaffa, who holds the Egyptian title of "bey," is well-known in several capacities in Egypt and the Palestine littoral. His principal activities have been hashish smuggling and the operation of a bus line which formerly operated between Egypt and Palestine, and between various cities of the Palestine coastal area. Recently he arranged a deal between the Mufti and Husni ZA'IM for the former to purchase and deliver to the Syrian government a substantial quantity of arms. Last week BAMIYA was in Lebanon when a large consignment of these arms arrived by sea at Lattaqiyyah on 11 August and were delivered to the Syrians.
2. While BAMIYA was visiting another Mufti adherent here, Ahmed al-IMAN (RLB-1332), he left the list of the arms in this shipment, complete with the prices to be paid by the Syrian government, with informant, to whom he had related the whole story. During BAMIYA's brief absence, source visited informant and heard all about it, also managing to catch a very brief glance at the list in informant's hands. All he could make out was that it included one hundred Sherman tanks with guns and radios, fifty thousand rifles (he was not sure of the latter figure), an unknown quantity of Schneiders, several types of field guns, and radio sets. The arms were, for the most part at least, American, and informant referred to them as "American arms."
3. After ZA'IM's assassination, BAMIYA, extremely worried that the new Syrian government would simply retain the arms and forget about payment, hurried to see Abdallah ATFAH, through whom the original negotiations had been conducted. ATFAH reassured BAMIYA, saying that the shipment and succeeding ones would be paid for in full.

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